

amendments to the claims are believed to be in compliance with new rule changes to 37 CFR 1.121, specifically, 1.121(c)(1)(i) and (ii) that went into effect on November 7, 2000. Please amend the above-identified patent application as follows.

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

C1  
Claim 1. (Twice Amended) A satellite system above a landmass comprising:

a service area on a surface of the earth having a predetermined minimum elevation angle from the horizon;

a satellite having an eccentric, substantially 24-hour period geosynchronous orbit with respect to the earth having sky track when viewed from within said service area, said orbit being inclined relative to an equatorial plane of the earth; and

an operating arc defined by a subset of points on said sky track over said service area, said satellite operating on said operating arc.

C2  
Claim 2. (Twice Amended) A satellite communications system comprising:

a service area on a surface of the earth having a predetermined minimum elevation angle from the horizon;

a ground station located within said service area;

a first satellite having a first eccentric, substantially 24-hour period geosynchronous orbit with respect to the earth having a first sky track when viewed from within said service area, said first orbit having first inclination relative to an equatorial plane of the earth;

a second satellite having a second eccentric, substantially 24-hour period geosynchronous orbit with respect to the earth having a second sky track when viewed from within said service area, said second orbit having a second inclination different from the first angle of inclination relative to an equatorial plane;

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